

Known for her kindness, she remembers birthdays and secretly leaves treats and gifts for students and staff. Outside her role as housekeeper, Hicks is a confidante of the students, encouraging them to maintain excellence and motivating them to achieve success.

Safety and Heroism

Rodney Burton, correctional officer at Marion Correctional Institution in the Department of Correction.

Officer Rodney Burton of Marion was working at his secondary job in a local convenience store when a man armed with a shotgun entered the store. Pointing his weapon at Burton, the man demanded money and items from the store. Burton initially complied but then grabbed the shotgun. A shot was fired, but Burton successfully disarmed the robber and called law enforcement. The assailant was later charged with armed robbery.

Bruce Roberts, Wildlife Enforcement pilot with the Wildlife Resources Commission.

Wildlife Enforcement pilot Bruce Roberts of Lenoir was returning from a cancelled flight when he heard fellow officers on the radio say they were conducting a search and rescue operation for a missing 74-year-old hunter with medical problems. He contacted his colleagues to say he was in the area and would conduct an aerial search, though he did not know how long he could stay in the mountainous location due to deteriorating weather conditions. In addition to darkness, there was rain, fog and wind gusts up to 20 mph.

Within an hour, Roberts located the missing man with night-vision equipment and eventually guided the wildlife officers to him. The elderly hunter was taken from the wilderness to a waiting ambulance.

Outstanding Government Service

Karl Hedrick III, laboratory mechanic and building liaison in the Department of Food Science at N.C State University.

In Karl Hedrick's role as lab mechanic and building liaison, the Clayton resident has become involved with all aspects of the operations of the N.C. State University Department of Food Science.

Hedrick oversaw renovation of every phase of the department's building, Schaub Hall. While other staff was relocated, Hedrick requested that his office remain on site so he could monitor daily operations. Following two power failures and a fire in the building, Hedrick personally relocated scientific research projects to safe sites during the middle of the night, preserving these valuable efforts and saving the university thousands of dollars.

Suzanne K. Johnson, nurse supervisor at the Morrison Correctional Institution in the N.C. Department of Correction.

During her summer vacations, Suzanne Johnson of Sanford has paid her own expenses to work in a hospital clinic in Honduras, providing health care for impoverished children and adults. Closer to home, she uses leave time to volunteer at the Victory Junction Gang Camp in Randleman, where she cares for critically ill children.

A nurse supervisor at Morrison Correctional Institution, Johnson recently oversaw the merger of the medical facilities there and at Sandhills Youth Center. In addition, she has saved the state thousands of dollars by rescuing salvageable medical supplies and moving inmates to correctional medical facilities rather than community hospitals.

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